



Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors

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Dear School Nurses and School Health Professionals:

On behalf of the *South Dakota Oral Health Program* we sincerely thank you for your support and efforts in promoting oral health for school aged children. Tooth decay remains the most common chronic disease of school children and is five times more common than asthma. National School and Adolescent Oral Health initiatives strive to reach those who do not have access to oral health care, and to provide resources through school health partnerships and collaborative activities that target children at risk for poor oral health.

The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) Executive Committee accepted an Oral Health Resolution during the 2007 National Oral Health Conference, developed to facilitate integration of oral health into Coordinated School Health Programs (CSH). This resolution has provided the foundation to move forward with development of new, and compilation of existing products that will be useful to school health and education professionals in promoting the integration of oral health curriculum into the Coordinated School Health model.

Please review the resource documents that provide information on integrating oral health into each of the components of the Coordinated School Health model, developed by the Center's for Disease Control's Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH). To view the CSH model please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/CSHP/>. The oral health resources provided by the ASTDD's School and Adolescent Oral Health Work Group include:

- the Oral Health Resolution for integration of oral health into the CSH model,
- a comprehensive CSH brochure for school health professionals,
- a CSH brochure appropriate for use with local school health and other professionals,
- oral health curriculum and assessment resources for professionals, and
- web based power point presentations that provide an introduction to the resources and other pertinent oral health prevention information for educating and training professionals.

These resources and additional information on the School and Adolescent Oral Health initiatives are posted to the ASTDD web pages for your viewing at www.astdd.org. Please also view state developed Best Practice models that will provide additional planning tools to assist program development. If you would like additional information on resources developed in our state please contact me. You may also visit our state oral health web site at <http://doh.sd.gov/oralhealth> to learn more about how we are working to improve children's oral health locally.

Please share these useful tools to integrate oral health into Coordinated School Health Programs with other school health and education professionals in your community. Thank you for your participation in this state and national collaboration to reduce the burden of oral disease affecting our children.

Sincerely,

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